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Claim 2, line 2, "the" has been deleted. (This has been made to correct an antecedent problem.)

Claim 11 has been amended as follows:

11. (Amended) A device for producing curved lengths of spring band steel (11), comprising a bending unit (20) comprised of three support points (23-25) spaced apart from one another through which a spring band steel (10), which is made up of the lengths of spring bend steel (11) that are disposed one after another and are of one piece with one another, can be conveyed so that the support points (23-25) rest against alternating band sides in the spring band steel advancing direction, wherein the center support point (24) of the three support points (23-25) is embodied so that it can be moved lateral to the spring band steel (10) in order to adjust a bending radius; a reverse bending unit (22), which is disposed after the bending unit (20) in the advancing direction of the spring band steel (10) and includes a fourth support point (32) that engages the same band side of the spring band steel (10) as the center support point (24) of the three support points (23-25) of the bending unit (20), which fourth support point (32) can be moved lateral to the spring band steel (10) in order to adjust a reverse bending radius; a cutting unit (21) for cutting the length of spring band steel (11) passing through the bending and reverse bending unit (20, 22) from the spring band steel (10), the cutting unit (21) being disposed between the bending and reverse bending unit (20, 22) with a cutting edge of the cutting unit establishing a last one of the three support points, in the conveying direction.

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Claim 13, line 1, "1" has been changed to --1--. (Dependent apparatus claim 13 has been corrected to be dependent from the independent apparatus claim rather than the method claim.)

Claim 23, line 7, --downstream of the three support points (23-25)-- has been inserted after
B3 "(32)".

line 8, --by the three support points (23-25)-- has been inserted after "bending".

line 9, "an embodying" has been changed to --and establishing--.

line 12, --before the subsequent support point (32)-- has been inserted before ";

Claim 24, line 7, --downstream of the three support points (23-25)-- has been inserted after
B4 "(32)".

line 8, --by the three support points (23-25)-- has been inserted after "bending".

line 9, "an embodying" has been changed to --and establishing--.

line 12, --before the subsequent support point (32)-- has been inserted before ";

Claim 25, line 7, --downstream of the three support points (23-25)-- has been inserted after
"(32)".

line 8, --by the three support points (23-25)-- has been inserted after "bending".

line 9, "an embodying" has been changed to --and establishing--.

line 12, --before the subsequent support point (32)-- has been inserted before ";

line 18, "taken" has been changed to --take--.

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Claim 26, line 7, --downstream of the three support points (23-25)-- has been inserted after

“(32)”.

line 8, --by the three support points (23-25)-- has been inserted after “bending”.

line 9, “an embodying” has been changed to --and establishing--.

line 12, --before the subsequent support point (32)-- has been inserted before “;”

line 18, “taken” has been changed to --take--.

Claim 27, line 7, --downstream of the three support points (23-25)-- has been inserted after

“(32)”.

line 7, “than during the bending” has been deleted. (The phrase was deleted to clarify the language of this “bending” step, since as presently worded, the “bending” step makes no sense.)

line 16, “taken” has been changed to --take--.

MARKED UP VERSION

1. **(Amended)** A method of producing curved lengths of spring band steel, comprising the steps of bending a spring band steel (10) which is made up of lengths of spring band steel (11) that adjoin one another and are of one piece with one another, between three support points (23-25), which are spaced from each other in a spring band steel advancing direction and rest against alternating band sides of the spring band steel (10); at a subsequent support point (32) downstream of the three support points (23-25), bending back by a lesser bending degree than during the bending by the three support points (23-25) in an opposite

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direction, cutting the length of spring band steel (11) that is bent from the spring band steel (10); ~~an embodying and establishing~~ a last one of the three support points (25) for the bending of the spring band steel as a cutting edge (30) on which a cutting blade (31) is conveyed in order to cut the length of the spring band steel (11) before the subsequent support point (32).

11. **(Amended)** A device for producing curved lengths of spring band steel (11), comprising a bending unit (20) comprised of three support points (23-25) spaced apart from one another through which a spring band steel (10), which is made up of the lengths of spring bend steel (11) that are disposed one after another and are of one piece with one another, can be conveyed so that the support points (23-25) rest against alternating band sides in the spring band steel advancing direction, wherein the center support point (24) of the three support points (23-25) is embodied so that it can be moved lateral to the spring band steel (10) in order to adjust a bending radius; a reverse bending unit (22), which is disposed after the bending unit (20) in the advancing direction of the spring band steel (10) and includes a fourth support point (32) that engages the same band side of the spring band steel (10) as the center support point (24) of the three support points (23-25) of the bending unit (20), which fourth support point (32) can be moved lateral to the spring band steel (10) in order to adjust a reverse bending radius; a cutting unit (21) for cutting the length of spring band steel (11) passing through the bending and reverse bending unit (20, 22) from the spring band steel (10), the cutting unit (21) being disposed between the bending and reverse bending unit (20, 22) with a cutting edge of the cutting unit establishing a last one of the three support points, in the conveying direction.



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INQUIRIES

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner D. Crane whose telephone number is (703) 308-1870. The examiner's office hours are 6:30 AM – 5:00 PM, Tuesday through Friday. The examiner's supervisor, Mr. Allen Ostrager, can be reached at (703) 308-3136.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

Documents related to the instant application may be submitted directly to Group 3700 by facsimile transmission at all times. Applicant(s) is(are) reminded to clearly mark any transmission as "DRAFT" if it is not to be considered as an official response. The Group 3725 Facsimile Center number is (703) 305-3579.

DCCrane
August 21, 2003



Daniel C. Crane
Primary Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 3725

